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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

GANG WAR

PART THREE

THY FATHER'S SON!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

THY FATHER'S SON!

JUST MOMENTS AGO...

SPIDER-MAN WRESTLED WITH THE DEADLY ARCH-NEMESIS OF ALL CRIMINALS... THE PUNISHER!

AND, WHILE HE DID MANAGE TO PREVENT THE BRUTAL SLAYINGS OF NEW YORK'S TOP MOB BOSSES, SPIDEY EVENTUALLY SUCCUMBED TO A POWERFUL GAS RELEASED BY THE PUNISHER AT THE CLIMAX OF THEIR BATTLE!

FASTEN YOUR SEAT-BELTS, PEOPLE... THIS YARN'S ABOUT TO KICK INTO HIGH GEAR!

MORE EXCITEMENT THAN MANKIND DESERVES, MODESTLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY--

JIM OWSLEY STORY * ALAN KUPPERBERG PENCILS * JIM FERN & ART NICHOLS INKS * RICK PARKER LETTERS * BOB SHAREN COLOR * JIM SALICRUP EDITOR * JIM SHOOTER EDITOR IN CHIEF

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OUCH!
IT HURTS TO BLINK!
I NEED THAT TRUCK'S LICENSE PLATE NUMBER...
N...NO TRUCK, WEBHEAD! THAT WAS THE *PUNISHER!* YOU FOUGHT HIM AND LOST. END OF STORY.
--OR *IS* IT? YOU MANAGED TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THE *LEADERS* OF THIS TOWN'S CRIME GANGS!
THE GUYS *BEHIND* THIS GANG WAR--!
THERE!! IT'S SPIDER-MAN!
OH, FINE! SWELL! WONDERFUL!
SMASH!
ON THE STREET BELOW, THE ROSE TRIES TO MAKE HIS ESCAPE FROM THE WAR ZONE!
THIS AREA IS OVERRUN WITH HEAVILY-ARMED UNDERWORLD ASSOCIATES AND POLICE, ROSE.
OUR LEAVING THE AREA MAY REQUIRE THE USE OF *DEADLY FORCE* ON OUR PART--
WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO *WASTE* SOMEBODY, BOSS!
I DISAGREE, MR. VARLEY.
" I'VE ALREADY TAKEN CERTAIN PRECAUTIONS... "
HOLEE--
HEY... WHUZZAT --?!
...IT'S THE *HOBGOBLIN!*
HA HA HA HA HA
BEWARE, CRETINS!
DEATH RIDES FOR YOU!
SCATTER! HE'S LOBBING SOME SORT OF GAS GRENADES!
NYPD
POOM!
MR. HALL... BRING THE CAR *NOW.*

EXCELLENT, SIR! A CLEVER DIVERSION FROM THE *HOB-GOBLIN* AND WE'RE OUT WITH NO BLOODSHED!

NO BLOODSHED MEANING NO UNDUE MEDIA ATTENTION!

PAT HIM ON THE BACK, *LATER*, JOHNSTON! *HALL! DRIVE!!*

HA HA HA HA HAH

I DON'T NEED THIS! NOT NOW!

I'M STILL TOO WOBBLY FROM THE GAS!

DON'T MOVE, MISTER! DON'T EVEN *THINK* OF MOVING!

WHAT HAPPENED?! HE MOVED SO FAST--!

THWIPP!

I HATE TO DO THIS--BUT I HAVE TO GO!

GEE, THAT WAS...

...EASY...

UH-OH!

POLICE CHOPPER!

...AND IT'S A LONNNNNG WAY DOWN!

...AND I'M REALLY ZONKED!

"...YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE!"

HEY--! WHAT'S HE--?!

WELL...

...DOING?

UH... GUS?

WHAT FORM DO WE USE TO REPORT SOMETHING LIKE THIS?!

WHO SAID WE WERE GONNA *REPORT* IT?

THE PUNISHER REALLY PACKS A WALLOP! I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME SOMEONE DANCED ME AROUND THE BLOCK LIKE THAT!

...AND, WORST OF ALL, I CAN'T HELP WONDERING IF HE WASN'T *RIGHT* ALL ALONG!

I MEAN, THIS GANG WAR'S COSTING A *LOT* OF INNOCENT LIVES! THE HEADS OF THE CITY'S MAJOR GANGS WERE ALL TOGETHER IN THE KINGPIN'S OFFICES!

ONE SHOT FROM THE PUNISHER'S BAZOOKA MIGHT'VE BROUGHT THIS WAR TO AN END! UNTOLD NUMBERS OF INNOCENTS COULD'VE BEEN SAVED!

THWIPP!

EXCEPT I HAD TO PLAY GOOD GUY AND LEAP RIGHT IN...

...THUS *PROLONGING* THE WAR I SWORE TO *END!*

THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH ME-- I TAKE THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD ON MY SHOULDERS...

...AND THEN I TRY TO SOLVE EVERY-THING!

BUT IS IT RIGHT TO SAVE MURDERERS FROM A PSYCHO-KILLER?

REALLY WHIPPED! BETTER REST UP HERE A MINUTE BEFORE I HEAD HOME!

MORNING...

PRECINCT

PRECINCT

BANION? BANNER--?

C'MON, SARGE--YOU DO THIS EVERY TIME I COME HERE! IT'S *BANNON!* LANCE BANNON OF *THE DAILY BUGLE!*

AND YOU KNOW *WHY* I GIVE YOU A HARD TIME, LANCE BANNON?

IT'S 'CUZ I *HATE* BEIN' CALLED "SARGE"!

SERGEANT TORK--PLEASE SLOW DOWN!

YOU *CAN'T* JUST LEAVE! WHAT ABOUT THESE PERSONNEL RE-PORTS YOU HAVE TO EVALUATE?

STACK 'EM IN THE MEN'S ROOM! STALL "A"!

I GOT AN ERRAND TO RUN!

SERGEANT-- YOU'RE HEAD OF *PERSONNEL* HERE! YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE--

--OR DRESS LIKE I WANNA, OR WEAR MY HAIR LONG, RIGHT?

SERGEANT--

C'MON, ANITA! CUT ME SOME SLACK!

I'LL BE BACK IN AN HOUR. COVER FOR ME.

YOU'RE LATE!

SERGEANT, PLEASE--

I HAD TO DANCE WITH KRESCHLER! AGAIN!

MY HEART *BLEEDS,* BANNON!

SERGEANT--

I CAN'T KEEP COVERING FOR YOU!

SURE YOU CAN!

I LOVE YOU, ANITA!

C'MON, KID! LET'S ROLL!

WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK...

DAILY BUGLE

BAZOOKA ATTACK ON KING PIN'S HEAD-QUARTERS

GOT A WRENCH?

DAILY

BA

ATTA

ON

YOU TALKING TO ME?

ANYBODY ELSE SITTING ON THIS BENCH? I'VE GOT A FLAT TIRE.

YEAH. I GOT A WRENCH. HELP YOURSELF.

MY NAME'S *DINA.*

MACHO SILENCIO, HUH? OKAY.

I GO TO COLUMBIA. I LIKE SUSHI.

I THINK YOU'RE WORKING TOO HARD AT THIS.

YOU ALWAYS CARRY A *GUN* IN YOUR SADDLEBAG?

ONLY WHEN I'M OUT TO *MUG* SOMEBODY!

BUGLE

BAZOOKA ATTAC KING-PIN'S HEAD-RTERS

NEXT QUESTION.

IS YOUR SENSE OF CHIVALRY BEING THREATENED BY MY FIXING MY OWN BIKE WHILE YOU SIT IDLY BY?

LOOK, DINA...

DAILY BU

TACK KING-PIN'S HEAD-RTERS

... I'M JUST NOT INTERESTED IN THIS ROLE-PLAYING COME-ON STUFF.

OMIGOSH.

GUESS THAT MEANS *I'M* BUYING THE COFFEE, HUH?

SOON...

...I THINK AS FAR AS THIS GANG WAR GOES, THAT *ONE MAN*, WORKING FROM THE *INSIDE* CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE.

IT'LL TAKE TIME, AND A *LOT* OF DEDICATION, BUT IT *CAN* HAPPEN!

YOU KNOW, YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF *ANGER* BOTTLED UP INSIDE THERE! I CAN'T QUITE PUT MY FINGER ON IT...

Breakfast 99¢ SPECIAL

... BUT YOU'RE TAKING ALL THIS GANG WAR STUFF PRETTY SERIOUSLY.

LET ME ASK YOU... THIS THEORY OF YOURS...

...WHAT WOULD KEEP A GUY WORKING *INSIDE* THAT LONG FROM, IN FACT *BECOMING* A CRIMINAL?

STRENGTH OF CHARACTER.

TAKE ME TO YOUR PLACE.

MEANWHILE...

OH, NO! THAT *SMELL*... THE COLD AIR...

I *DIDN'T* SPEND THE NIGHT IN AN ALLEY... DID I?

GREAT! NEARLY ELEVEN HOURS' SLEEP AND I'M *STILL* FEELING THE EFFECTS OF THE PUNISHER'S GAS!

TOO ZONKED FOR WEBSLINGING... BETTER CATCH A TAXI...

...IN NEW YORK...

...IN MIDTOWN...

...DRESSED LIKE THIS...

INTERESTING, YES?

I WONDER IF CAPTAIN AMERICA HAS DAYS LIKE THIS?

SOON, ON THE ROOF OF PETER PARKER'S APARTMENT BUILDING...

I'M GONNA SLEEP FOR A WEEK!

PETER! YOU'RE HOME -- I WAS SO WORRIED--!

MARY JANE'S STILL HERE?!

DOESN'T SHE EVER GO HOME?

WHEN YOU RAN OUT ON DINNER LAST NIGHT, I JUST FREAKED-- I MEAN, THIS GANG WAR--

-- ALL THOSE BULLETS FLYING... MOBSTERS WITH TOMMY-GUNS...

I MADE IT BACK IN ONE PIECE, MJ.

I RAN OUT LIKE THE LONE RANGER AND FELL ON MY FACE.

I SAVED LIVES...

...AND FELT BAD ABOUT DOING IT!

I ALMOST WISH I HAD FAILED...

... AND THEY WERE DEAD!

HALF OF ME DOESN'T LIKE MYSELF AT ALL!

GLAD YOU STAYED, AREN'T YOU?

I LIKE YOU OKAY, TIGER!

I NEED A SHOWER.

WHAT YOU *NEED*, PETEY--

--IS SOME CHEER-ING UP!

MARY JANE!!!

CUTE BUNS, TIGER!

MEANWHILE...

HIYA, HANDSOME--

HONEST VINNIE'S CAR $ALES

--WANNA BUY A PORSCHE?

I DOUBT IT! NOT FROM *YOU*, ANYWAY, "HONEST" VINNIE.

SHUT UP, LANCE!

WHASSUP, VINCE?

GOT YOUR MESSAGE. I FIGURED--

NOT HERE.

LET'S GO DOWNSTAIRS. HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE.

LEAVE THE BANGO-GEEK BOY SCOUT UP HERE!

KIDS TODAY GOT NO RESPECT. IN THE OLD DAYS... I'M TALKIN'...TWENTY... THIRTY YEARS AGO...BEFORE I GOT STRAIGHT...

...WE'D TAKE OFF A *FINGER* FOR THAT KIND'A CRUD!

C'MON, VINCE-- FIRST OF ALL, YOU DIDN'T ROLL THAT HIGH, AND SECOND, YOU AIN'T *NEVER* BEEN STRAIGHT!

THESE AIN'T CRATES O' *ORANGES* I'M SITTIN' ON.'

THEY'RE *GUNS!* *HOT* GUNS! *STREET* GUNS!

SO? ARREST ME, OFFICER!

I'LL BE OUT BEFORE THE INK DRIES ON YOUR REPORT!

LOOK, TORK, YOU'RE A NICE KID. I LIKE YOU. I'M JUST A GUY TRYIN' TO MAKE AN HONEST LIVING. YEAH, I DEAL ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW SOMETIMES... BUT I'M NOT A SLIMEBALL LIKE YOUR BOY UP-STAIRS. THIS GANG WAR... THIS KILLING OF KIDS AND WOMEN... IT STINKS TO HIGH HEAVEN!

THOSE TRIGGER-HAPPY SLAM-BOYS HAVE GOTTA BE STOPPED!

I KNOW THERE'S A MEET TONIGHT. JACKSON HEIGHTS. MIDNIGHT. THE ROSE--Y'KNOW... THAT WEIRD KID WITH THE PURPLE MASK... IS GONNA HAVE A SIT-DOWN WITH THE LEADER OF THE NEW BLUE BOY GANG. I WANTCHA TO SHOOT 'EM ALL DEAD, TORK!

I'M A *COP*, VINNIE! I CAN'T JUST SHOOT PEOPLE!

NOT UNLESS I MAKE IT LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT...

TRUST ME, KID! THESE GUYS DON'T WANT A SIT-DOWN! THEY DON'T WANT A TREATY! THESE MANIACS GET THEIR KICKS *SHOOTING* PEOPLE!

WATCH YOUR BUTT, KID! YOU'RE A GOOD COP. I HATE YOUR GUTS.

TONIGHT?! WHY *TONIGHT*?!

I'VE GOT *PLANS* FOR TONIGHT! I CAN'T GO!

VINN

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ALWAYS PESTERS ME FOR LEADS, LANCE! YOU WANT EXCLUSIVE PICTURES--I JUST DROPPED A *BIG* LEAD IN YOUR LAP!

I'M SURE WHATEVER YOU'VE GOT GOIN' TONIGHT CAN *WAIT*!

LATER, IN GREENWICH VILLAGE...

GOTTA PLAN MY NEXT MOVE *CAREFULLY*... AFTER ALL, I DON'T WANT TO END UP LIKE ONE OF *THEM*!

NEVER PLANNED ON THIS GANG WAR, THOUGH. DUMB MOVE FOR ME. AFTER ALL, I WAS THE GUY WHO HAD ALL THE ANGLES COVERED...

TIME MOB

NOW, THERE'S ALL THIS OPEN WAR-FARE IN THE STREETS... LOTS OF PEOPLE GETTING WASTED IN THE CROSS-FIRE! THIS REALLY STINKS!

I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT... BUT I REFUSE TO LET MYSELF GET DRAGGED DOWN TO *THEIR* LEVEL... LIKE MY FATHER...

TIME

HEY, SPORT--THIS LOFT IS *OUTRAGEOUS*!

HOW CAN YOU AFFORD IT?!

YOUR DAD MUST BE RICH!

YEP. HE'S RICH.

HE'S A CROOK.

WRONG SUBJECT, DINA...

MY FATHER HURT A LOT OF PEOPLE...

...KILLED A LOT OF PEOPLE.

I'VE SPENT THE LAST FEW YEARS WORKING AGAINST MY FATHER, INFILTRATING HIS BUSINESS AND CHIPPING AWAY AT HIS CRIMINAL EMPIRE.

IF YOU'VE BEEN FIGHTING FROM WITHIN--DOESN'T THAT MAKE *YOU* A CRIMINAL, TOO?

ME

NO.

I'VE GOT TO *DEAL* WITH THEM, BUT I'VE NEVER PERSONALLY COMMITTED A CRIME.

TIME

HAVE YOU... ...UH...

...HAVE YOU EVER HAD ANYONE KILLED--?

NO ONE WHO DIDN'T *DESERVE* IT!

ONLY CRIMINALS. IT'S THEIR WAY OF LIFE.

YES, MR. VARLEY--?

TONIGHT? EXCELLENT.

INFORM OUR OPERATIVES AND ARRANGE SECURITY. REPORT TO ME PRECISELY AT MIDNIGHT.

BEEP BEEP

AND, IN PETER PARKER'S CHELSEA APARTMENT...

ZZZ ZZZ!

KNOCK KNOCK

HEY--MARY JANE! WEIRD CATCHING YOU AT PARKER'S PLACE!

THE GUY BEING SUCH A ZERO AND ALL...

KEEP IT DOWN, LANCE--PETE'S ASLEEP!

THAT'S GOOD, 'CAUSE OL' WONDER BOY'S GONNA NEED THE Z's, I'VE GOT A HOT TIP FOR HIM!

THERE'S A BIG GANGLAND MEET GOING DOWN TONIGHT, AND I'VE GOT OTHER PLANS!

DROPPING ASSIGNMENTS LIKE THIS ISN'T MY STYLE--I WORK HARD TO GET LITTLE TIPS LIKE THIS!

BUT I'M LOCKED INTO SOMETHING TONIGHT THAT I JUST CAN'T GET OUT OF! AND SOMEBODY OUGHTA BE AT THE MEET!

ZZZZ--

RRRIIING!

H'LO--?

PETER, IT'S MATT. MATT MURDOCK. I NEED TO SEE YOU RIGHT AWAY.

HUH?!

MEET ME AT MIDNIGHT ATOP THE VERAZANO NARROWS BRIDGE. COME ALONE.

CLICKK!

IS HE KIDDING--?

HERE'S THE ADDRESS--

OKAY, OKAY! I'LL GIVE IT TO HIM!

WHO WAS THAT ON THE PHONE?

SOME NUT!

WHO... WHO WAS AT THE DOOR?

DITTO.

BACK TO SLEEP, TIGER!

GOOD IDEA.

STILL LATER, IN MIDTOWN...

THE ARRANGER IS ANNOYED WITH YOUR ODD NOCTURNAL VISITING RITUALS.

THE ARRANGER IS A SPINELESS YES-MAN, KLINGMAN! JUST LIKE YOU!

THAT I *AM* ABOUT TO VISIT MY MOTHER TELLS ME MY DEAR FATHER HAS OKAYED IT!

PRESENTLY...

STILL NO CHANGE! WHAT HAS MY FATHER *DONE* TO HER? SHE WAS SO SPECIAL...

...SO STRONG...

NOW SHE JUST *LIES* THERE!

I MET A *GIRL* TODAY, MOTHER. YOU'D LIKE HER. SHE HAS *YOUR* STRENGTH.

SHE'S NOT AFRAID OF WHO I AM. OF WHAT WILL SOON GO DOWN BETWEEN FATHER AND ME.

HER NAME IS *DINA*, AND SHE--

RICHARD.

YOUR NAME... IS RICHARD.

YOU ARE MY SON... AREN'T YOU--?

SHE...SHE *SPOKE!* SHE REMEMBERED!

SHE'S COMING OUT OF HER CATATONIA!

SHE COMES AND GOES, MR. FISK. SOME DAYS ARE BETTER THAN OTHERS.

I WOULDN'T WANT TO RAISE YOUR HOPES. TOMORROW SHE WON'T EVEN RECOGNIZE YOU!

I'M SORRY, BUT I MUST ASK YOU TO LEAVE! DURING THESE RARE INCIDENTS, SHE RESPONDS WELL TO THERAPY!

AND, AFTER FISK HAS LEFT THE ROOM...

I THOUGHT WE HAD AN *UNDERSTANDING*, VANESSA.

YOU WERE VERY *BAD* JUST THEN!

NOW I'LL HAVE TO *INCREASE* YOUR MEDICATION...

FOREST HILLS...

DINNER WAS *GREAT*, AUNT MAY--

I'M SO HAPPY YOU CAME BY, PETER! SUCH A *LOVELY* SURPRISE!

WHEN THE COOKIES ARE FINISHED BAKING, I'LL WRAP A BATCH FOR YOU!

AND COMING HERE GAVE ME A CHANCE TO GET AWAY FROM MARY JANE! THINGS HAVE BEEN STRAINED LATELY!

GOT TO GET MOVING SOON-- MATT SAID TO MEET HIM AT *MIDNIGHT*, AND THE VERRAZANO IS QUITE A STROLL FROM HERE!

THAT GUY REALLY WORRIES ME--

YOU KNOW, PETER, MORE AND MORE EACH DAY YOU BECOME THE VERY SPITTING IMAGE OF OF YOUR UNCLE BEN.

NOT JUST A RESEMBLANCE, MIND YOU-- IT'S AS THOUGH YOU WERE BEN'S SON, RATHER THAN HIS BROTHER DICKIE'S--

-- BUT YOUR VERY *MANNER* IS SO MUCH LIKE BEN'S!

UNCLE BEN WAS A GREAT MAN, AUNT MAY. YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY--

--GREATNESS RUNS IN THE FAMILY! LIKE UNCLE, LIKE NEPHEW!

CAN'T ESCAPE IT!

QUARTER TO MIDNIGHT.

THIS REALLY BITES!

Wa-Clash BOWLING ALLEY

STAKIN' OUT THAT BOWLING ALLEY-- WHERE THE *MEET'S* SUPPOSED TO GO DOWN. YOU GUYS LISTENIN' TO ME--?

YEAH, TORK!

BY THE BY-- NICE OF YOU TO STAY OUT OF SIGHT LIKE THE REST OF US.

YOU KIDDING? I HOPE THEY SEE ME PRANCIN' AROUND UP HERE!

I HOPE THEY REALIZE THERE'RE FIFTY NEW YORK COPS PLANTED ALL OVER THIS BLOCK!

I HOPE THEY CALL IT OFF!

I HOPE I CAN GO *HOME!*

GOOD FOR YOU!

THE *REST* OF US, HOWEVER, WANNA MAKE A *BUST* TONIGHT--

HOLD IT! EVERYBODY --STAY COOL!

THE ADVANCE-SECURITY TEAM'S ARRIVING!

IT'S SHOWTIME!

HAHAHAHAHAHA!

CRASH

BOWLING AL

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

GREETINGS, GENTLEMEN! I AM THE *HOBGOBLIN!*

THE *ROSE*, MY BUSINESS ASSOCIATE, HAS ENTERED INTO A JOINT AGREEMENT WITH THE KINGPIN'S ARRANGER!

MY COLLEAGUE-- *JACK O'LANTERN*-- REPRESENTS THE KINGPIN'S SECURITY INTEREST IN THE PROCEEDINGS!

HIYA.

THE ROSE WILL ARRIVE SHORTLY WITH THE INTENTION OF BARGAINING IN *GOOD FAITH!* BE *WARNED*, HOWEVER--

--AT THE SLIGHTEST SIGN OF TREACHERY, WE HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO KILL EVERY MAN IN THIS ROOM!

DO WE *UNDERSTAND* EACH OTHER--?

MIDNIGHT.

WHERE IS HE?!

THE WHOLE DEAL IS STRANGE! I REALLY DON'T KNOW MATT ALL THAT WELL. HE'S ALWAYS SEEMED REAL ODD! BUT HE'S ALSO DARE-DEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR! WE'RE ALLEGEDLY ON THE SAME SIDE!

HE DOESN'T STRIKE ME AS ONE WHO'D MAKE *PRANK CALLS!*

I'LL GIVE HIM A FEW MORE MINUTES...

QUARTER PAST MIDNIGHT.

YOU'RE *LATE*, Y'KNOW. YOUR MEETING WAS AT MIDNIGHT.

HELLO--?

I KNOW, DINA. I'M...WELL... JUST NOT REALLY INTO IT...

I SAW MY MOTHER TONIGHT.

YES... NO... I'M NOT SURE.

HALF PAST MIDNIGHT.

C'MON, YOU DOPES!

SPOT ME ALREADY!!

MAYBE.

HEY-- LOOK UP THERE!

SHE REMEMBERED MY NAME.

IS THAT A BIG DEAL?

WILL YOU BE HERE WHEN I GET BACK?

ALL RIGHT! THEY'VE SPOTTED ME!!

NYAH NYAH--!! YA BIG GOONS!!

OOGA OOGA.!!

GO HOME! YOU *KNOW* THERE ARE COPS HERE! GEEZ--HOW *THICK* ARE THESE GUYS?!

COP.

DEAD COP.

YEAH.

WOW.

THEY'RE *PRETTY* THICK!

BBBBAAADOOM!

ALL UNITS-- *ROLL!*

Crabtree + Fraunfelder

THESE MANIACS JUST BLEW UP THE EL-- FIRE'S *SPREADING!!*

EVERYBODY-- *MOVE IN!!*

QUARTER TO ONE. DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN.

MARY JANE-- ANYBODY NAMED "MATT" CALL? WHAT--?!

OH, PETER--IT'S *TERRIBLE!* HUGE EXPLOSIONS... FIRES... NOW GUNFIGHTS BETWEEN THE GANGSTERS!

IT'S ALL MY FAULT-- LANCE BANNON CAME BY HERE WITH A TIP ABOUT THIS MEETING... IN JACKSON HEIGHTS...

--I DIDN'T GIVE YOU THE MESSAGE!!

AND, *NOW* LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENED!!

TEN TO ONE.

HI!

I NEED A LIFT!

I CAN HELP STOP THE FIGHTING IN JACKSON HEIGHTS!

I'VE GOT TO GET THERE AS FAST AS I--

GET OFF MY UNIT, MISTER, OR I'LL LOCK YOU UP!

ONE O'CLOCK.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM, MR. HALL?

POLICE ACTIVITY, ROSE-- THEY'RE COMING OUT OF THE WOOD-WORK--SEALING OFF THE STREETS AROUND US!

WE'D BEST PROCEED ON *FOOT!* WITHDRAW FROM THE SECTOR!

LET'S LEAVE THE BLUE BOYS TO ACCOUNT FOR THIS MESS!

QUARTER PAST ONE.

NOTHING TO SWING FROM! NO WAY TO GET THERE!

I'D HITCH A RIDE ON A BUS IF I KNEW *HOW* TO GET FROM HERE TO JACKSON HEIGHTS! FEEL SO BLASTED HELPLESS!

SO BLASTED HELPLESS--

HEY, SPIDER-MAN! IF YOU'RE *SERIOUS* ABOUT WANTING TO HELP--

--I'LL GET YOU THERE!

JACKSON HEIGHTS--

THIS IS GETTIN' PRETTY *THICK*, HOBBY!

THE BLUE BOYS *AND* THE COPS ARE FIRING AT US!

BLEEP!

YES, ROSE, WHAT IS IT?

HOBGOBLIN-- GET OVER HERE *NOW!* WE'RE PINNED BY POLICE AND THE--

BLAM BLAM

YEEEARGH!

I DO NOT LIKE THAT *TONE* OF VOICE YOU'RE USING, ROSE! DO NOT FORGET WE ARE *PARTNERS* IN THIS ENDEAVOR!

EQUALS! I AM *NOT* YOUR *LACKEY!*

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS HOBGOBLIN GUY--!

ALL THIS *LEAD* FLYIN', AND HE STOPS TO *ARGUE?!*

I'M... HIT...?! *ME?!*

THIS IS *ABSURD!* TO BE GUNNED DOWN... BY COMMON THIEVES... FORCED TO RUN AWAY... BROUGHT DOWN TO *THEIR* LEVEL...

BLAM

BLAM

GOT TO MOVE... GET TO A DOCTOR!

COME, JACK O'LANTERN, I THINK I MUST INDEED RESCUE MY HAPLESS PARTNER--SO I CAN TEACH HIM TO TEMPER HIS ANGER--EH?

SPIDER-MAN!!

WA-ROOO WA-ROOO

HERE'S OUR *CHANCE*, JACK O' LANTERN!

OUR *CHANCE?!* OUR CHANCE FOR *WHAT?!*

TO *KILL* THE ACCURSED ARACHNID!

ARE YOU *CRAZY?!*

OF COURSE YOU'RE CRAZY! AND I'M CRAZY FOR BEING WITH YOU!

SPIDER-MAN'S ONE OF THE TOUGHEST GUYS AROUND! I DON'T TAKE HIM ON SOLO FOR ANYBODY!

NOW, WEB-SLINGER, YOU SHALL SEE WHO IS TRULY YOUR BETTER!

Y'KNOW, IT'S NEVER BEEN MORE CLEAR THAT YOU'RE NOT FLASH THOMPSON BENEATH THAT MASK!

FLASH HAD SOME ROTTEN LUCK IN HIS TIME--

--BUT YOU-- WHOEVER YOU MAY BE--YOU'RE SICK!

THWUMP!

LOOK AROUND YOU, HOBGOBLIN! THE FIRE'S SPREAD ALL OVER THIS NEIGHBORHOOD!

INNOCENTS ARE SUFFERING! THEY NEED HELP!

FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO FIGHT!

I'M GONNA HELP THOSE PEOPLE! IF YOU WANT TO KILL ME THAT BAD, NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!

THE HOBGOBLIN IS CUTTING OUT ON ME! HE'S LEAVING ME TO DIE!

WHO NEEDS HIM! I CAN STILL SAVE MYSELF!

ANOTHER BLOCK AND I'M--

--GONE,

A POLICE OFFICER!

A YOUNG OFFICER.

F... FREEZE!

A YOUNG OFFICER WHOSE ONLY JOB WAS TO KEEP TRAFFIC AWAY FROM THE WAR ZONE!

PUT YOUR HANDS WHERE I CAN SEE THEM!

A YOUNG OFFICER WHO NOW CAN END RICHARD FISK'S DREAM.

HERE'S ANOTHER ONE!

I'M GOING DOWN TO THE SECOND FLOOR! MEET ME THERE!

YOU GOT IT, WEBHEAD!

I'VE HEARD SO MANY BAD THINGS ABOUT HIM, BUT COURAGE LIKE THIS...

...WELL, I'D WANT HIM ON MY TEAM!

IT CAN'T END LIKE THIS! BY ACCIDENT!

HE'S SPENT MOST OF HIS ADULT LIFE CREATING THIS GUISE... BUILDING THIS EMPIRE!

A DREAM NOW SHATTERED BY A GUNMAN'S BULLETS AND A ROOKIE TRAFFIC COP.

MOVE IT, PARKER-- THERE'S STILL A LOT TO BE DONE--

GOTTA COVER THE AREA, MAKE SURE ALL THE PEOPLE ARE OUT OF THESE BURNING BUILDINGS!

RICHARD FISK WONDERS IF THIS YOUNG OFFICER IS ON HIS FATHER'S PAYROLL. EVERYONE ELSE IS.

RICHARD FISK SUSPECTS THIS ENTIRE NIGHT IS A BIZARRE DRAMA DIRECTED BY HIS FATHER.

SOMEWHERE, THE KINGPIN IS LAUGHING AT HIM.

THAT, OR THIS IS SOME WILD ACCIDENT.

THE PAIN MAKES IT HARD TO THINK.

HE IS A POWERFUL MOB CHIEFTAIN WHO HAS NEVER TECHNICALLY COMMITTED A CRIME.

HIT IT, GUYS!

HOLD HER STEADY, SPIDER-MAN--!

HE'S A WEAPONS EXPERT WHO HAS NEVER KILLED A MAN.

HE IS A YOUNG MAN OBSESSED WITH A DREAM. A DREAM THAT, FOR THE GREATER GOOD, MUST BECOME A REALITY! HE MUST NOT DIE! HE MUST NOT BE STOPPED.

BLAM

MUCH LATER...

... AND SO THE MANIC FIREFIGHT IS WINDING DOWN WITH MOST FIRES OUT OR UNDER CONTROL...

CREAK!

PETER!

I SAW YOU ON T.V.... SAVING THOSE PEOPLE... I WAS FRIGHTENED FOR YOU, BUT *YOU* WERE WONDERFUL!

I'M... I'M *SO* WIPED OUT... SO MUCH WORK... SO MANY PEOPLE--

--SAVING THE WORLD IS A TOUGH BUSINESS. ONE I NEVER WANTED TO BE *IN*!

BUT TONIGHT... I DON'T KNOW... *SOMETHING* HAPPENED! I MADE A *DIFFERENCE*! I ACTUALLY DID SOME *GOOD* TONIGHT!

AND, NOBODY DIED!

UH... PETER...

..THIS JUST IN...

... A YOUNG ROOKIE COP WAS SHOT BY A MAN WITNESSES IDENTIFY AS *THE ROSE*...

IT... WAS AN ACCIDENT, DINA... I MEANT ONLY TO WING HIM! I'M HIT-- IT MESSED UP MY AIM...

...IT WAS SO STUPID... HE WAS GOING TO ARREST ME... HE HUNTED ME LIKE A COMMON THIEF...

...I NEED A DOCTOR...

RICHARD FISK HAD CAREFULLY AVOIDED HARMING ANY INNOCENT PEOPLE THOUGHOUT HIS CAREER AS THE ROSE.

TONIGHT HE KILLED AN INNOCENT MAN.

THEY BOTH KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.

NEXT: **DAREDEVIL, *THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!***

Shadowcat